



THREE DECADES OF EXCELLENCE

Responsiveness • Meaningful Engagement • Innovation

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WELCOME to the Region 4 Superfund program. In 2010, we celebrated the 30th anniversary of the Superfund program and the 40th anniversaries of Earth Day and the founding of EPA. For Region 4, this year has provided a valuable opportunity to reflect on our efforts to serve the people and communities of the southeastern United States. In turn, these reflections have informed our ongoing activities and future goals, renewing our commitment to safe, healthy communities and environmental protection.

Since 1980, Region 4 Superfund has been advancing scientific research and technological innovation to enhance our ability to protect human health and the environment. We

This report highlights Region 4 Superfund's activities in Fiscal Year (FY) 2010. We hope that these highlights illustrate how the program is making a difference in people's lives and benefiting communities across the southeastern United States. It is an exciting time.

have reached out to communities to ensure their meaningful engagement and help communities turn Superfund sites into community assets. We have been working with Region 4's network of dedicated partners to address shared responsibilities and challenges. Finally, we have pioneered methods through our "enforcement first" policy to ensure that our efforts to protect human health and the environment are comprehensive and cost effective.

The past year illustrates the program's capacities. In 2010, we responded to environmental emergencies

of national significance, including the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf and the continued cleanup of the TVA Kingston Fossil Plant fly ash release in Tennessee. We invested resources from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to expedite environmental restoration, sustain employment and improve the health of communities. We worked for environmental justice and enabled new opportunities for vulnerable communities through EPA's Community Engagement Initiative and related efforts.

Looking ahead to FY 2011 and beyond, 30 years after the inception of the Superfund program, Region 4 seeks to build on three decades of experience and expertise: a foundation of authentic community engagement, scientific and enforcement excellence, fiscal responsibility and a robust partnership network. Through the dedication and integrity of our staff and a commitment to innovation, we renew our mission to protect human health and the environment.

Franklin E. Hill, Director
Superfund Division



FY 2010: *By the Numbers*

The project descriptions in this report illustrate the Region 4 Superfund program in action, making a difference in communities across the Southeast. Our annual performance measure goals and program targets, presented below, provide a way to measure the program's overall achievements and outcomes in FY 2010.

Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) Performance Accomplishments	
Primary Measure	Accomplishment
Enforcement action at 95 percent of Superfund sites prior to Remedial Action Start	90 percent
Statute-of-limitation (SOL) cases > \$200,000 addressed	100 percent
Responsible Party-lead removal completions with or without an enforcement action	36
Superfund-lead removal completions	33
Final Assessment Decisions	41
Superfund construction completions	2
Number of Superfund hazardous waste sites with human exposures under control	3
Number of Superfund hazardous waste sites with ground water migration under control	6
Site-wide ready for anticipated use	9
Financial assurance provided	\$19.7 million
Inspections/exercises conducted at oil storage facilities with Facility Response Plans (FRPs)	34
Facilities subject to FRP requirements in compliance	52 percent
Facilities subject to Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasure (SPCC) regulations in compliance	56 percent
Core national approach to response assessment score	98 percent

Superfund Program Measures Accomplished	
Target	Achieved
RI/FS Starts	29
Decision Documents	52
Remedial Design / Remedial Action (RD/RA) Negotiation Starts	6
RD/RA Negotiation Completions	4
Remedial Design Starts	8
Remedial Design Completions	10
Remedial Action Starts	11
Remedial Action Completions	7
Five-Year Reviews	31
Deletions	0
Emergency Response Exercises	3
Sites Final on the National Priorities List	5
Final Superfund Alternative Approach Sites	6
Community Engagement Activities	86
FRP and SPCC Inspections	62

Nationally, Region 4 Superfund was responsible for 25 percent of all remedial investigations/feasibility studies (RI/FSSs), 15 percent of all Records of Decision and 19 percent of all remedial action starts.

Progress at Federal Facilities was also impressive, accounting for 38 percent of all RI/FSSs, 22 percent of all Records of Decision, 24 percent of all remedial action completions and 25 percent of all construction completions achieved at Federal Facilities nationwide.

Region 4 Superfund Site Universe, 2010

- 233 National Priorities List (NPL) sites
- 31 sites with Superfund Alternative Agreements
- 84 Removal Action sites

Enhancing Public Involvement, Making a Difference: the Community Engagement Initiative

In FY 2010, Region 4's historical leadership role at the forefront of EPA's efforts to reach out to local stakeholders and vulnerable communities was strengthened by coordination with EPA's national Community Engagement Initiative.

Region 4 has long recognized that protecting the health of our communities and the environment is the work of many hands and minds. Region 4 Superfund cannot fulfill its mission without authentic community engagement and public outreach as core components of the program's activities.

Region 4's Office of Superfund Public Affairs and Outreach (OSPAO) developed an Action Plan for the initiative in 2010. The Plan builds on Region 4's robust public affairs and outreach program to work closely with the diverse voices in each community to ensure that they have the resources needed to participate early and meaningfully in the Superfund decision-making process. Region 4 recognizes that the needs of each community are unique and tailors its approaches to best meet those needs.

As part of the initiative, Region 4 will continue to work closely with its partners to ensure transparent and accessible decision-making processes, to deliver information that communities can use to participate meaningfully, to strengthen EPA responsiveness to community perspectives, and to ensure timely cleanup decisions.

The Community Engagement Initiative

Introduced by EPA's Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response (OSWER) in December 2009, the initiative is designed to enhance EPA's engagement with communities and stakeholders so that they may meaningfully participate in decisions on land cleanup, emergency response and management of hazardous substances and waste.

The initiative provides an opportunity for the Agency to refocus and renew its vision for community engagement, build on best practices and apply them consistently across EPA processes.



EPA Administrator Lisa P. Jackson, U.S. Representative James E. Clyburn and Delegate Donna M. Christensen visiting EPA's nationally recognized job readiness program at the Savannah River Site in South Carolina in April 2010.

Region 4 and the Community Engagement Initiative - FY 2010 activities included:

- Conducting more than 80 community meetings across the Southeast.
- Identifying vulnerable communities and providing rapid-response community outreach and technical assistance services at sites including the CTS Mills Gap and Horton Iron & Metal Co. sites in North Carolina, the Cabot/Koppers site in Florida and the Kerr-McGee Chemical (Columbus) site in Mississippi.
- Partnering with the City of Jacksonville, Florida, and the Superfund Job Training Initiative to create positive change during the cleanup process for local environmental justice communities.
- Meeting with state community involvement and environmental justice liaisons to collaborate on community engagement activities and share information and best practices.



The Deepwater Horizon: Responding to the Largest Oil Spill in U.S. History

On April 20, 2010, the Deepwater Horizon oil rig exploded in the Gulf of Mexico, 41 miles southeast of the Louisiana coast. The explosion killed 11 people and released a torrent of oil and gas into the Gulf that flowed for almost three months, until the well was successfully capped in a coordinated effort on July 15, 2010.



The Big Picture

At the height of the response, over 45,000 personnel and 6,000 vessels were involved in containment and cleanup efforts across the Gulf Coast.

By the time the well was capped, it is estimated that the Deepwater Horizon had released more than 4.9 million barrels of oil into the Gulf, significantly impacting the Gulf's communities, ecosystem and economic activity. It is one of the worst man-made environmental disasters in American history. The spill caused the closure of 88,522 square miles of federal waters to fishing, and affected hundreds of miles of shoreline, bayous and bays.

Throughout 2010, Region 4 provided its full support to the U.S. Coast Guard-led federal response to the oil spill, monitoring the air, water and sediment along the Gulf Coast and overseeing beach cleanup and shoreline protection as well as waste management operations. Region 4 assessed more than 1,000 miles of the Gulf Coast's shoreline. Region 4 Superfund was responsible for coordinating and leading the Region's response.

EPA's goals continue to be the protection of public health and the environment across the Gulf Coast through careful monitoring of air, water and sediment and ensuring that Gulf Coast communities are involved

and well-informed. Region 4, for example, was instrumental in developing the federal government's data management system for the spill and using Google Earth to display the enormous amount of data. Results and the interpretation of all data collected by EPA are posted online at <http://www.epa.gov/bpspill>.



The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act: Advancing Long-Term Cleanup, 2010 Updates

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act allocated \$7.22 billion for projects and programs administered by EPA, including \$600 million in new funding for Superfund site cleanup. Region 4 Superfund has provided more than \$27 million in Recovery Act funding for seven Superfund sites, helping expedite environmental restoration and improve the health of communities. Through FY 2010, these projects have also led to the creation or retention of more than 150 jobs.

- **Sigmon's Septic Tank (Statesville, North Carolina):** Region 4 worked collaboratively with the community and local and state officials to rapidly address septic wastes at the site, resulting in the first Recovery Act-funded construction completion in the nation.
- **Escambia Wood Treating Company (Pensacola, Florida):** Region 4 worked closely with the community and \$3.5 million in Recovery Act funding has supported the completion of the site's soil cleanup. Seventy site acres will be ready for expedited commercial redevelopment projected to support 1,714 local jobs.
- **Brunswick Wood Preserving (Brunswick, Georgia):** Engaging with the community, Region 4 has implemented the remedy for this former wood treating facility. A total of \$8.3 million in Recovery Act funding significantly accelerated cleanup activities, protecting public health.
- **United Metals Inc. (Marianna, Florida):** Region 4's accelerated cleanup of this former battery reclaiming facility included site clearing, installation of an air monitoring system and treatment of contaminated soil and sediments.
- **Woolfolk Chemical Works (Fort Valley, Georgia):** The community's efforts to restore this former pesticide facility are coming to fruition. Region 4 is supporting Fort Valley's efforts through the site's cleanup, which has been accelerated by \$1.8 million in Recovery Act funding.
- **Tower Chemical (Clermont, Florida):** Region 4's rapid response to protect local drinking water supplies and clean up contamination at this former pesticide plant is ongoing. Recovery Act funding has enabled the off-site disposal of contaminated soil and sediments and wetland restoration.
- **GMH Electronics (Roxboro, North Carolina):** Region 4 has collaborated with local and state authorities to rapidly address ground water contamination at this former manufacturing facility. Following immediate delivery of bottled water and filtration systems to homes with contaminated drinking water, EPA allocated \$1.5 million in Recovery Act funding and connected 50 families to the municipal drinking water system in 2010.

Additionally, three Department of Energy complexes in Region 4 have received \$2.4 billion in Recovery Act funding for cleanup projects. This funding has created 2,388 jobs and significantly accelerated the cleanup of these sites. Work at the Oak Ridge Reservation in Knoxville, Tennessee has focused on building deactivation and decommissioning. Activities at the Savannah River Site in Aiken, South Carolina and the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant in Paducah, Kentucky have focused on waste assessment and removal and the cleanup of two nuclear reactors. Region 4 is actively monitoring progress at these sites to ensure compliance with the Federal Facility agreements.

1980

President Carter signs Superfund law, creating the federal government's program to clean up the nation's uncontrolled hazardous waste sites and making polluters liable for toxic cleanups.



Strengthening Healthy Communities, Advancing Environmental Protection

1981

First Consent
Decree in Region
4 enables
cleanup of the
Gulf Coast Lead
Company site in
Florida.

The Region 4 Superfund cleanup program plays a vital role in protecting human health and the environment in communities across the southeastern United States.

Long-Term Cleanups

Some cleanups take place at complex, highly contaminated sites like NPL sites and sites with Superfund Alternative Agreements. These federal and private-party sites often require several years to fully study the problems, develop a permanent remedy and clean up the hazardous substances. Region 4 works closely with communities and state, tribal and federal partners to ensure the protection of human health and the environment at these sites.

Emergency Cleanups

Protecting communities sometimes requires a rapid response to an unexpected emergency. Whether there is a chemical leak at a manufacturing facility, a landfill fire, an uncontrolled oil release or a natural disaster, EPA Region 4 will be there, coordinating closely with local responders and other emergency officials. In FY 2010, Region 4 received 6,367 spill notifications and provided quick evaluations and responded as needed to these emergencies.

Site Evaluations

EPA Region 4 works with states and tribes to assess and prioritize hazardous sites for cleanup. Region 4's site evaluations ensure that releases of hazardous substances are responded to appropriately and comprehensively. For sites that are complex, contentious or expensive for states or tribes to address, or that are otherwise most appropriately addressed as long-term cleanups, Region 4 proposes these sites for listing on the NPL. Region 4 led the way nationally in proposing and listing sites on the NPL in FY 2010.

The Oil Program

Oil spills present a significant threat to the environment and EPA takes steps to prevent, prepare for and respond to oil spills that occur in and around inland waters of the United States. Region 4 monitors and inspects oil storage facilities, conducts spill preparation drills and other training, and conducts removals at leaking oil wells to prevent releases. In the event of an oil spill, Region 4 responds rapidly to address the emergency.

Reusing Superfund Sites



Region 4 and Superfund Site Reuse

As part of the Superfund program, EPA supports the redevelopment of contaminated properties and views the revitalization of communities affected by contaminated properties as a key component of our mission to protect human health and the environment. Superfund site reuse returns land to productive use and restores blighted properties, which in turn can benefit surrounding communities, providing job opportunities, sustaining local economies and offering recreational and ecological amenities. By the end of FY 2010, 39 Superfund sites in Region 4 were determined to be ready for anticipated use.

Protecting Safer, Healthier Communities: Long-Term Cleanups

Region 4 Superfund is committed to helping make communities and the environment safer and healthier. The program's dedication to this effort includes a comprehensive process that develops long-term solutions to attain and maintain human health and environmental restoration in communities across the southeastern United States.

Milestone Achieved at NPL Site in Salisbury, North Carolina

In September 2010, construction of the remedy for the National Starch and Chemical Corporation site was completed. Two active chemical manufacturing plants have operated at the site since 1970. The site's cleanup has addressed approximately 350,000 gallons of liquid waste containing lead and various organic chemicals placed in unlined trenches in a two-acre area, resulting in contamination of soil, surface water and ground water. With the completed construction of the site's remedy, Region 4 has responded comprehensively to protect human health and the environment. The site is located in a rural area that depends heavily on wells for drinking water; about 7,700 people use public and private wells within three miles of the site.

Long-Term Cleanup Completed at NPL Site in Saraland, Alabama

The 5.1-acre Redwing Carriers, Inc. Superfund site is the former location of a truck cleaning and repair facility, which led to contamination of site soils and the build-up of tar-like sludge. A 60-unit, 12-building U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD)-subsidized apartment complex was later built on the site. Soon thereafter, reports from residents of "tar seeps" forming at numerous locations led to Region 4's involvement and the site's cleanup. Approximately 160 residents were permanently relocated; more than 30,000 tons of sludge, contaminated soil and debris were excavated and disposed of off site and 3,915 cubic yards of asphalt concrete were removed and recycled. The site's \$5.2 million cleanup, funded by the site's responsible parties, was completed in February 2010.



1983

The A.L. Taylor ("Valley of the Drums") site in Kentucky is the first site in Region 4 listed on the NPL.



Region 4 and Children's Health

Region 4 protects children from environmental health threats, spills, releases and Superfund sites by using strict public health standards, evaluating and addressing risks, and enhancing public awareness through reports, public meetings and one-on-one discussions with the impacted communities.

In 2010, for example, Region 4 Superfund responded to emergencies in 12 residences, three schools and three other locations where mercury spills occurred; the cleanups protected the health of an estimated 2,665 children. Children are especially sensitive to health impacts from exposure to mercury vapors which emanate from indoor mercury spills.

Working in Partnership at Federal Facilities

Contaminated Federal Facilities like Department of Defense (DOD) military bases and Department of Energy (DOE) nuclear reactor, processing and research centers are complex sites that require coordination with EPA's partners. Region 4 partners with many groups, including governmental and non-governmental groups and local stakeholders, to coordinate cleanup, technical assistance and restoration efforts at 30 Federal Facilities.

Region 4's responsibilities include oversight of complex cleanups at three major DOE complexes: the Savannah River Site in South Carolina, the Oak Ridge Reservation in Tennessee and the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant in Kentucky. Region 4 also implements the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) program in the Southeast, working closely with our federal partners to facilitate the reuse and redevelopment of Federal Facilities. Major recent successes include the cleanup and mixed-use redevelopment of a former U.S. Air Force base in South Carolina.



Before: Barracks at Myrtle Beach Air Force Base.

Community Celebrates Transfer of Historic Myrtle Beach Air Force Base for Public Use

For almost 40 years, U.S. Air Force squadrons from Myrtle Beach Air Force Base deployed across Europe, Southeast Asia and the Middle East, serving in the Cold War, the Vietnam War and the Persian Gulf War. In September 2010, the final 3.5 acres of the 3,937-acre site were transferred to the community. The site's cleanup and redevelopment has been ongoing for much of the past decade, serving as a national example of how these activities can be coordinated over time.

Today, new land uses include expanded facilities for the adjacent Myrtle Beach International Airport, educational and medical facilities, housing and the Market Common, a mixed retail/residential development. A ceremony in October celebrated the final property transfer and recognized the dedicated service of airmen, civilians and their families. The transition from military to commercial and residential uses means increased jobs and economic growth for Myrtle Beach and the State of South Carolina.

1983
First
Administrative
Order on Consent
in Region 4
reimburses EPA
for cleanup of
the Brown's Wood
Preserving site in
Florida.



After: Commercial and residential redevelopment at the former base, 2010.

Taking Action, Addressing Emergencies

The Region 4 Superfund cleanup program not only provides long-term solutions to protect human health and the environment; it responds quickly to the release, or threatened release, of hazardous substances wherever and whenever they occur.

Emergency Response to Fly Ash Release in Tennessee Completed; Emory River Reopened to the Public

The first phase of the cleanup for the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) Kingston site was completed in 2010. Since May 2009, hundreds of railcars transported more than 3.6 million cubic yards of fly ash from the site to the Perry County landfill in Alabama. Based on this progress, EPA, in consultation with local officials, the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation and the Tennessee Department of Health, reopened the Emory River to the public in May 2010, determining that any coal ash remaining in the Emory River presents minimal health risks to recreational users. EPA also approved the TVA's cleanup plan for the next phase of coal ash removal.

EPA continued substantial community outreach efforts in Roane County, Tennessee and Perry County, Alabama in 2010 to ensure that affected communities were kept well-informed and fully aware of all activities related to site cleanup. Outreach efforts have included educational presentations, public meetings and assistance to the Roane County Community Advisory Group, as well as the maintenance of a website (<http://www.epakingstontva.com>) dedicated to providing real-time cleanup information.

December 22, 2008: A Look Back

An estimated 5.4 million cubic yards of coal fly ash was released from an impoundment at the TVA Kingston power plant in Kingston, Tennessee. The initial release of material created a wave of water and ash that choked the adjacent Emory River, destroyed several homes, disrupted electrical power, ruptured a natural gas line, covered a railway and local roadways, and necessitated the evacuation of a nearby neighborhood.

The site's long-term cleanup is now underway. Activities include the cleanup of remaining fly ash and surface soils and a comprehensive ecological and human health risk assessment. EPA anticipates that this phase of the site's cleanup will cost approximately \$268.2 million and take about four years to complete.

Throughout the site's cleanup, EPA's overall objectives are to ensure that the cleanup is protective of human health and the environment, employs sound science, and is completed as quickly and as safely as possible.

1986

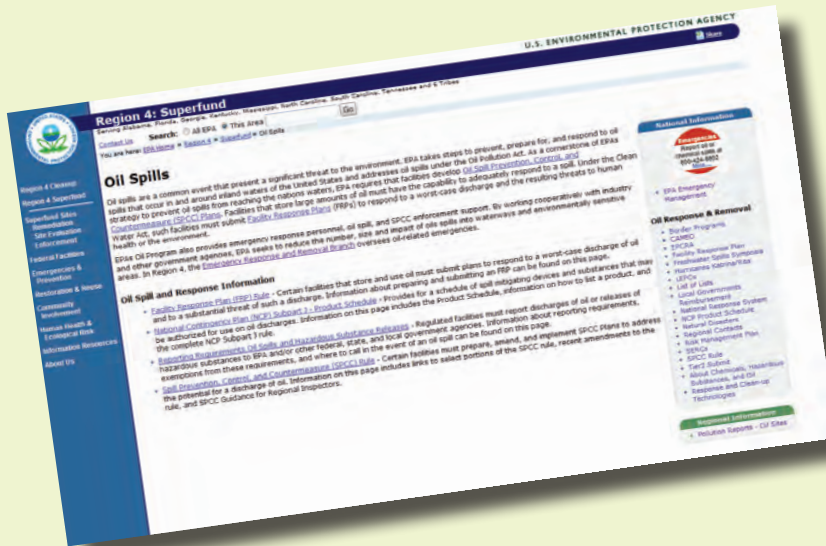
Congress passes the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA), strengthening Superfund program authorities.



Before-and-after aerial views of the TVA Kingston Fossil Plant fly ash release, following the release (*left*) and during cleanup in 2010 (*right*).

Preventing, Preparing and Responding: The Oil Program

Region 4 has one of the most comprehensive and effective oil spill prevention and removal programs in the nation. The program's goal: to work cooperatively with the oil industry and other government agencies to reduce the number, size and impact of oil spills into waterways and environmentally sensitive areas.



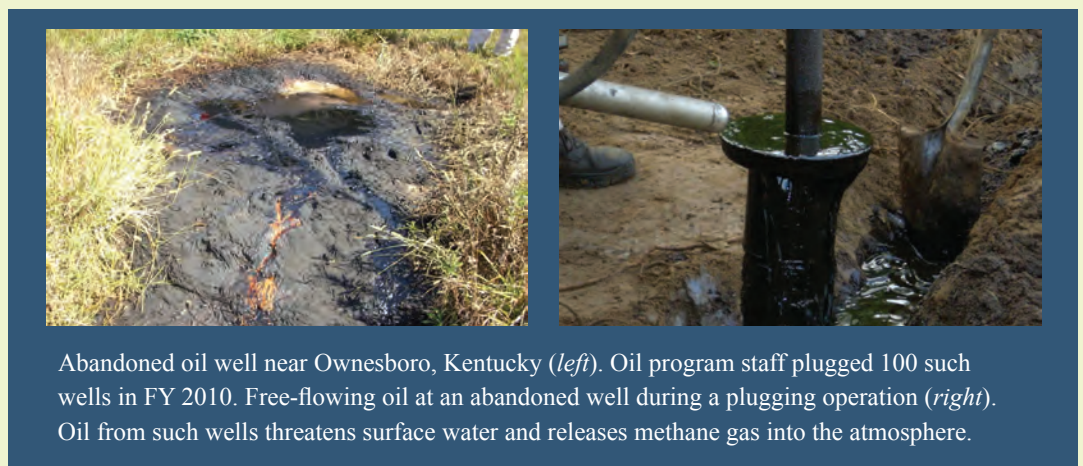
New Oil Spills Web Page

As a part of our efforts to enable enhanced internal and public access to program information, Region 4 created a new Oil Spills Web page (<http://www.epa.gov/region4/waste/sf/oilspills.html>) in FY 2010. The Web page provides regional and national emergency response and oil spill information, including links to rules and requirements for Facility Response Plans, product schedules, oil spill and hazardous substance release reports, and Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasure Plans.

and prioritize abandoned crude oil-related production wells eligible for remediation using EPA's Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund. In FY 2010, the program conducted inspections at more than 100 oil facilities and successfully brought more than 50 percent of non-compliant facilities back into compliance.

The program and its partners are addressing thousands of abandoned and leaking oil wells that have been identified as currently or potentially impacting waterways in the Southeast. A total of 100 oil wells, predominantly in Kentucky, were properly plugged and closed during FY 2010, the largest annual total in Region 4 history. In addition to threatening the environment through discharges of oil, many of these wells emit significant quantities of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. Permanently closing these wells provides immediate protection to surface water bodies and results in a direct reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

Over the past five years, the Region has also sustained and strengthened strong relationships with the oil industry and federal, state and local governmental agencies to identify



Abandoned oil well near Ownesboro, Kentucky (left). Oil program staff plugged 100 such wells in FY 2010. Free-flowing oil at an abandoned well during a plugging operation (right). Oil from such wells threatens surface water and releases methane gas into the atmosphere.

Enforcing Superfund: Driven by the Rule of Law

Superfund enforcement and cost recovery protects human health and the environment by compelling the parties responsible for contamination at a site to clean it up or pay for the cleanup. In turn, resources returned to the Trust Fund help make possible cleanup activities in communities across the southeastern United States. While compliance with the nation's environmental law is the ultimate objective, enforcement is a vital part of encouraging governments, businesses and other parties to meet their environmental obligations.

Region 4 Superfund vigorously pursues enforcement and cost recovery activities. In FY 2010, Region 4 entered into 32 Administrative Orders and 14 Consent Decrees or judgments and conducted 45 searches for potentially responsible parties (PRPs). Access orders were enforced for 159 properties in Alabama, Florida and North Carolina, ensuring that the communities will be better informed regarding potential releases at the Anniston PCB, Sanford Dry Cleaners and Ore Knob Mine sites.

Successful Settlement Agreement and Continued Use in Davie, Florida

EPA Region 4 negotiated a settlement agreement with the South Florida Water Management District for the cleanup of the Florida Petroleum Reprocessors Superfund site in 2010. Under the settlement approved by the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), the party agreed to pay \$190,000 to reimburse EPA for its response costs at the site. The site is a former waste oil processing facility; the site's cleanup has included the removal of debris and contaminated soils and monitoring of the site's ground water, protecting human health and the environment. A vehicle and equipment storage facility has continued to operate on the southern portion of the site during cleanup. The entire site will be available for reuse after completion of the ground water remedy, anticipated for 2015.



Early 1990s
Program reforms designed to make Superfund “faster, fairer and more efficient” include provisions that encourage redevelopment and expand public involvement.

Did You Know?

In FY 2010, EPA Region 4's Superfund program:

- Entered into 12 settlements with responsible parties to conduct \$31.6 million of cleanup on 12 sites and returned \$5.9 million to the Trust Fund. These cleanups will address 722,689 cubic yards of contaminated soils and 15.4 million cubic yards of water.
- Issued approximately \$15.9 million in oversight bills.
- Conducted enforcement work, including write-offs of uncollectable costs, valued at \$191.5 million.
- Used \$2.8 million from Special Accounts to perform work at sites.

30 Years of “Enforcement First” at EPA

Over the past 30 years, Region 4 Superfund's approach to “enforcement first” has grown to mean that we conduct thorough, timely investigations to identify PRPs, take all appropriate remedial and removal enforcement actions, address recovery of EPA's costs and ensure that PRPs conduct investigations and cleanup under enforceable orders.

The results have been remarkable. Since the inception of the Superfund program, Region 4 has entered into 1,239 settlements, securing \$2.9 billion in work commitments and recovering \$483 million in past costs.



Acting Strategically: Homeland Security

As the “Lead EPA Region for Homeland Security” in 2009 and 2010, Region 4 has focused on ensuring enhanced emergency response, prevention and preparedness capabilities through coordinated planning with our network of local, state, tribal and federal partners. In 2010, Region 4 pursued expanded partnerships with state agencies and other federal response partners who would be called upon to play a major role in disaster planning and response. At the state level, these organizations included state health programs and mutual aid networks. At the federal level, these response partners included DOE, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the Department of Health and Human Services.

Region 4 also continued to serve as a national leader in sharing the Agency’s preparedness efforts and expertise with our partners and seeking new opportunities for enhanced communication, inter-governmental coordination and shared research with our partnership network, as illustrated below.

EPA and Homeland Security

EPA plays a vital role in homeland security. For years, EPA has been responding to oil and chemical spills and natural disasters. EPA’s long-standing competencies in these areas – emergency response, hazardous material cleanup, water quality protection, air quality monitoring and radiation detection – provide the Agency with a base of expertise and the capabilities necessary to address today’s homeland security challenges. These challenges include a significant environmental component, ensuring that the nation has clean air, clean and safe water supplies, restored lands and healthy communities.



Liberty RadEx Drill Helps Nation Prepare for ‘Dirty Bomb’ Scenario

Region 4 collaborated with Regions 3 and 5, EPA’s Office of Radiation and Indoor Air, and EPA Special Teams to develop and stage the Liberty Radiation Exercise (RadEx), held in Philadelphia in April 2010. Sponsored and designed by EPA, the exercise was a national drill to practice and test federal, state and local assessment and cleanup capabilities in the aftermath of a dirty bomb, “a radiological dispersion device incident,” in an urban environment.

The scenario in the Liberty RadEx exercise was built around the likely aftermath of a suicide attack launched from a van loaded with ammonium nitrate mixed with diesel fuel and radioactive Cesium-137. More than 1,000 participants representing federal, state and local agencies as well as private citizens and companies were involved. Field drills and training exercises took place over three days in and around Philadelphia.

While most training exercises to date have focused on crisis response in the immediate aftermath of a terrorist attack, EPA researchers helped design Liberty RadEx to provide the first major exercise for developing and practicing the critical steps that must take place in the days and weeks after the initial response. The drill also provided a real-world opportunity to apply and demonstrate cleanup technologies that had previously been tested primarily in EPA’s research laboratories.

The Year in Review: Additional FY 2010 Highlights



Region 4 Responds to Flooding in Tennessee

In early May 2010, parts of central and western Tennessee received approximately 20 inches of rain over a two-day period, leading to extensive flooding. Forty-nine impacted counties were declared federal disaster areas. In coordination with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Tennessee Emergency Management Authority and the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, Region 4 responded rapidly, setting up an Incident Command

Post to conduct oil and hazardous substance assessments and undertake recovery efforts in central Tennessee (the City of Nashville and surrounding counties) and western Tennessee (the City of Jackson and the City of Memphis and surrounding counties). Region 4 assessed all 49 counties and over 118 river miles, resulting in the collection and proper disposal of over 8,300 hazardous substance and oil-related containers.

1992

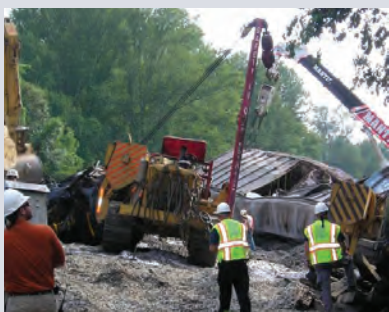
First Construction Completion in the nation achieved at the Walcotte Chemical Co. Warehouses site in Mississippi.



EPA, DOE and State of Tennessee Reach Resolution on Oak Ridge Reservation Cleanup

The successful resolution of two disputes regarding cleanup activities at the Oak Ridge Reservation's East Tennessee Technology Park in October 2010 has led to new provisions for site inspections and laid the groundwork for EPA, DOE and the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) to work more collaboratively in pursuing a cleanup strategy for the site. EPA assessed stipulated penalties totaling

\$308,388 against DOE for two violations of the site's Federal Facilities Agreement (FFA): failure to complete cleanup activities and failure to disclose the failure of a portion of the site's remedy. Additionally, TDEC assessed stipulated penalties totaling \$500,000 for the FFA violations. These costs represent one of the largest penalties ever assessed against a Federal Facility nationwide.



Region 4 Responds to Train Derailment in Northwestern South Carolina

In June 2010, EPA responded to the derailment of a Norfolk Southern train carrying several cars of flammable and hazardous materials in Liberty, South Carolina. The wreck damaged a total of 24 cars, leading to an evacuation of 436 homes in a one-mile radius from the crash site. Region 4 staff mobilized to provide technical support and oversee response activities, including the inspection and staging of damaged

train cars and reconstruction of the rail line. EPA On-Scene Coordinators also aided in the successful establishment of a Unified Command structure that enabled the coordination of local, state and Norfolk Southern response activities and the cleanup and reopening of the rail line.

30 YEARS OF THE Healthier Families. Cleaner



On December 11, 1980, Congress passed the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), also known as “Superfund.” This important legislation filled a major gap in environmental protection. Events at Love Canal in New York and other sites around the country had shown that wastes buried long ago – and mostly forgotten – could prove to be a serious threat to public health and the environment.

Since then, EPA has been working hard to fulfill the program’s mission to protect human health and the environment. In the Southeast, Region 4 has relied on updated technologies, a network of dedicated partners and innovative approaches like our “enforcement first” policy to comprehensively and cost-effectively achieve the program’s mission. The site highlights on these pages provide snapshots of Region 4 Superfund in action over the past three decades.

New Program Responds to the “Valley of the Drums” Site in Kentucky

In 1981, EPA responded under the newly established Superfund program to a waste disposal site discharging pollutants into a tributary of the Ohio River near Brooks, Kentucky. Region 4 discovered that ground water, surface water and soils were polluted with heavy metals, volatile organic compounds and plastics from spills and approximately 4,000 deteriorating and leaking waste drums. Responding on behalf of approximately 100 residents living within a one-mile radius of the site who were at risk of exposure, drums were removed and an interceptor trench installed, halting runoff into a nearby creek.

In 1983, EPA added the A.L. Taylor (“Valley of the Drums”) site to the NPL, the then newly-established list of sites needing priority attention. Region 4’s long-term cleanup of the site included installation of a clay cap, a perimeter drainage treatment system and monitoring wells. The Kentucky Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection took over responsibility for operation and maintenance of the remedy, with the site’s responsible parties paying approximately \$602,000 to cover all site cleanup costs. In 1996, with the remedy in place and potential exposure pathways eliminated, EPA removed the site from the NPL.



National Superfund Outcomes

Since 1980, EPA has cleaned up 67 percent of contaminated Superfund sites nationwide, and has helped create jobs for more than 3,300 Americans – with an average starting hourly wage of \$14.26 – to help clean up contaminated sites, enabling their reuse as bustling neighborhoods, parks and commercial centers. The Agency has readied nearly 1.3 million acres of land for return to productive use, and more than 455,800 acres are ready for anticipated use.



SUPERFUND PROGRAM:

Communities. A Stronger America.

Region 4 Superfund has listened and learned from its partners and diverse stakeholders over the past three decades. The program has developed new tools and updated approaches that have effectively protected public health and restored the environment while also supporting the efforts of sustainable, resilient and livable communities to revitalize formerly contaminated, stigmatized areas. Today, Region 4's commitment to transparent, meaningful community engagement, sound science, robust enforcement and innovation remains at the core of our pursuit of excellence.

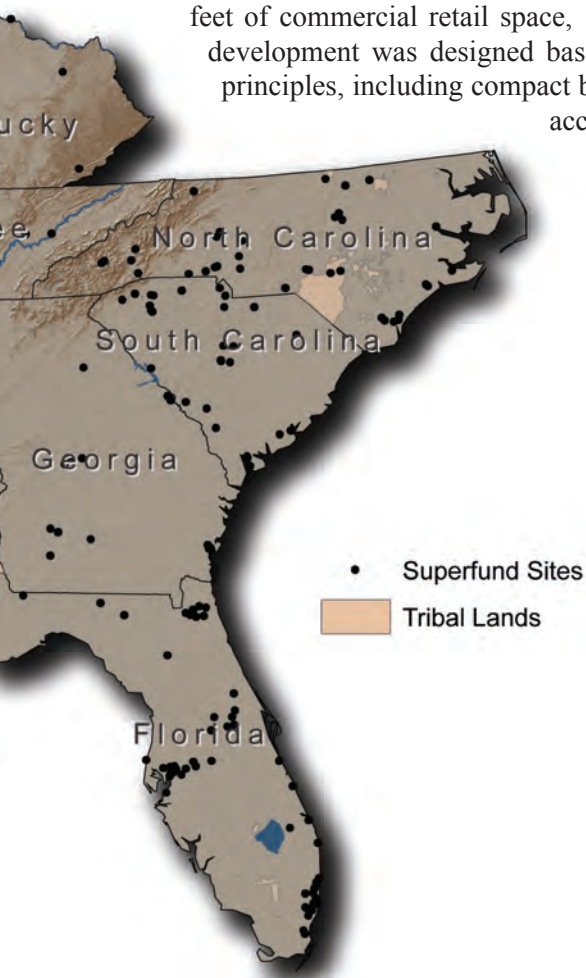
Cleanup and Mixed-Use Revitalization Transform Former Steel Plant in Georgia

A national model of smart growth and sustainable development is rising on 138 acres in downtown Atlanta. During World War II, the Atlantic Steel Company was the largest employer in Georgia; its plant produced more than 700,000 tons of steel annually. Following the plant's closure in 1998, developers, the City of Atlanta and community organizations worked closely with EPA and the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (Georgia EPD) to integrate the site's cleanup with revitalization efforts.

Following detailed site investigation and assessments by EPA and Georgia EPD, the site's \$10 million cleanup moved forward; over 20,000 truckloads of contaminated soil were removed from the site. Today, Atlantic Station is a mixed-use development providing approximately 5,000 residential units, six million square feet of commercial office space, two million square feet of commercial retail space, 1,000 hotel rooms and 11 acres of public parks. The development was designed based on smart growth and sustainable building design principles, including compact building design, walkable neighborhood amenities and access to public transportation.



Image courtesy of Atlantic Station



Region 4 Superfund Outcomes

- Since 1980, Region 4, along with its state and tribal partners, has assessed 7,717 sites – 16 percent of all 49,146 sites assessed nationally by EPA's Superfund program.
- Over 2,010 removal actions have been taken by Region 4 to address immediate threats to human health and the environment.
- Of the 233 NPL sites in Region 4, 152 (68 percent) have had all cleanup construction completed. An additional 49 sites have been deleted from the NPL.
- Over 360 Five-Year Reviews have been completed to ensure the long-term effectiveness of cleanup remedies.
- Over the life of the Superfund program, the estimated value of private party settlements in Region 4 is \$2.9 billion.

Maximizing Environmental Outcomes

1994
EPA's
Environmental
Justice Task
Force created to
address concerns
over the unequal
distribution of
environmental
threats in
disadvantaged
and minority
communities.

Cleaning up a hazardous waste site uses energy, water and other natural or material resources. As outlined in EPA's *Superfund Green Remediation Strategy* (2010), the Agency recognizes that much can be done to conserve natural resources, minimize waste generation and reduce energy consumption, consequently improving the environmental performance of Superfund activities while fulfilling Superfund's mission to protect human health and the environment.

In February 2010, Region 4 Superfund Division Director Franklin E. Hill signed the Clean and Green Policy (http://www.epa.gov/region4/waste/sf/clean_green_022010.pdf), which will improve the Region's environmental footprint as we work to clean up and restore Superfund sites in the southeastern United States. The policy, modeled after EPA's *Principles for Greener Cleanups*, supports a more sustainable future by promoting the use of renewable energy and cleaner burning fuels, water conservation, green and sustainable reuse designs for sites after cleanup has been completed, greenhouse gas emission reduction technologies, waste reduction and recycling programs, and other best management practices at sites wherever possible.

GREEN REMEDIATION

is the practice of considering all environmental effects of remedy implementation and incorporating options to minimize the environmental footprints of cleanup actions.



Model Public-Private Partnership for Recycling in Gadsden, Alabama Meets Multiple Clean and Green Policy Objectives

In June 2010, EPA and the Harsco Corporation held a ceremony at the former Gulf States Steel Removal site to highlight the model public-private partnership currently underway. During site cleanup, stockpiled slag material left behind when the steel mill closed operations more than 10 years ago will be processed for reuse. The removal action will recover and recycle ferrous metals, reducing the volume of landfilled material by more than 20 percent. More than 85 percent of the project's total cost will be funded through the recycling and reuse of on-site materials. A portion of the proceeds from the sale of the recovered metals will help pay for the disposal and containment of other hazardous wastes at the site. During the three phases of cleanup, more than 30 jobs have been created and an economic benefit of approximately \$11 million has been projected for the local area.

Listening and Supporting Positive Change: Environmental Justice

Recognizing that minority and low-income communities may face disproportionate environmental risks, Region 4 has been a national leader in developing innovative ways to protect these communities from adverse public health and environmental impacts for three decades. Region 4's Superfund and Environmental Justice Programs collaborate closely to ensure that these communities have opportunities for meaningful participation in environmental decision-making. Region 4 also coordinates closely with EPA Headquarters and states to support initiatives that provide communities with technical assistance, trainings and other services.

Jacksonville, Florida Selected as EPA Environmental Justice Showcase Community

In April 2010, EPA selected the City of Jacksonville, Florida as one of the national models for EPA's commitment to environmental justice efforts. The 10 selected Showcase Communities are using collaborative, community-based approaches to improve public health and the environment. EPA has committed \$100,000 to provide seed money for projects in Jacksonville's Health Zone 1.

"The Jacksonville EJ Showcase Community pilot presents an opportunity to work closely with residents in the city's urban core to address their priority environmental and public health issues," said Stan Meiburg, EPA Acting Regional Administrator for the Southeast. "By coordinating closely with our federal, state and local partners, and better leveraging resources, we expect to achieve measurable environmental and public health improvements."

EPA is collaborating with a wide range of stakeholders, including residents, community organizations, the City of Jacksonville, the State of Florida and other federal agencies to improve environmental and public health outcomes in low income, minority communities in Jacksonville. Projects range from efforts addressing water quality concerns and increasing community capacity for green jobs to activities that improve indoor air quality in schools and reduce asthma and toxics exposure.

"Jacksonville is proud to receive the designation of an Environmental Justice Showcase Community," said Mayor John Peyton. "While this designation highlights our ongoing efforts to improve the quality of life for our citizens living in areas of environmental concern, we know there is still much to be done. We look forward to leveraging this recognition to strengthen our relationships with our state and federal partners as we address additional challenges in our communities."

1997

EPA's Office of Children's Health Protection created.

1999

EPA's Superfund Redevelopment Initiative created to help communities turn cleaned up Superfund sites into productive assets.

THE PRINCIPLES OF ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE uphold the idea that all communities overburdened by pollution – particularly minority, low-income and indigenous communities – deserve the same degree of protection from environmental and health hazards, equal access to the decision-making process and a healthy environment in which to live, learn and work.



Creating Opportunities: Technical Assistance and Job Training

Region 4's commitment to meaningful community outreach and engagement includes the provision of technical assistance and job training services for underserved citizens living in communities affected by Superfund sites. Region 4 works closely with EPA programs like Community Action for a Renewed Environment (CARE), the Technical Assistance Services for Communities (TASC) program and the Technical Assistance Plan (TAP) and Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) programs to provide these education and training opportunities.

New Superfund Job Training Initiative Program Makes a Difference in Jacksonville, Florida

In 2010, Jacksonville SuperJTI provided career development opportunities for 26 trainees living near the Jacksonville Ash and Brown's Dump sites. Region 4's goal is to help the community create job opportunities and partnerships that remain long after the site's cleanup is completed. Through a partnership with the City of Jacksonville, community organizations and site contractors, the program provided local job-seekers with new skills and work experience. Trainees completed courses in lifeskills and technical training as well as CPR and first aid. Following graduation in May 2010, graduates were placed into positions as environmental technicians, truck drivers and heavy equipment operators.

Nationally Recognized Job Training Program Continues in South Carolina (SRS SuperJTI)

SRS SuperJTI continued to provide career development opportunities for residents living near the Savannah River Site (SRS) in south-central South Carolina and eastern Georgia in 2010. The first Superfund job readiness program in the nation to be conducted at a Federal Facility, SRS SuperJTI provides local job-seekers with new skills and work experience through a partnership with DOE, community organizations and site contractors. The second cycle of the program took place between March and July 2010, building on the success of the program's first cycle, which graduated 20 trainees in 2009. Forty-two trainees completed the second round of SRS SuperJTI. Following graduation in July 2010, trainees were placed into permanent positions with full benefits as radiological control inspectors and maintenance and production operators.

Did You Know?

Region 4 currently has nine active TAG communities; the most recent TAG was awarded to the Protect Gainesville Citizens, Inc. community organization for the Cabot/Koppers site in Gainesville, Florida in June 2010. Cumulative TAG funding in Region 4 exceeds \$1 million.

Region 4 Superfund also has five active TAP communities; the most recent TAP was awarded in May 2010 to the Improvement League of Plant City for the Coronet Industries site in Plant City, Florida.

Looking Ahead

In FY 2011, following two years of SRS SuperJTI assistance from EPA Headquarters under the TASC program, Region 4 is funding the third cycle of SRS SuperJTI training.

The training is projected to create approximately 40 jobs in the Augusta, Georgia area.



Increasing Transparency and Inclusion, Enhancing Access to Information



With a focus on accuracy, comprehensiveness and transparency, EPA Region 4 is constantly striving to develop new ways to harness the power of information. Region 4 works closely with our state, tribal and local program partners in utilizing existing and emerging tools to ensure that optimal information resources are accessible to all. EPA staff members also rely on access to reliable, comprehensive information generated during the program's environmental restoration efforts.

Region 4 has invested substantial resources over the long term to effectively manage and provide program information to EPA staff and share this information with states, communities and other interested parties. To accomplish this goal in recent years, the Region has focused on three areas: website development, Web conferencing and document management. In FY 2010, Region 4 made additional enhancements to the program's website.

2004

EPA achieves
900th
Construction
Completion at
the Solitron
Microwave site in
Florida.

Superfund Website Enhancements

Region 4 upgraded the Superfund program's website (www.epa.gov/region4/waste/sf) to continue to ensure that information provided to the public is relevant, accurate and timely. A wide range of new content, including videos and podcasts, was added to the website in 2010. All 260+ site summary profile pages were standardized for enhanced readability and all remaining PDF documents were finalized to meet EPA compliance standards. Finally, more than 500 pages of outdated content were removed from the website.



First Document Guiding Effective Communication of Environmental Data Findings in the Nation

Region 4 developed a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) in 2010 that provides step-by-step guidance on how project managers can communicate environmental data findings to the public using status update letters that are accurate, complete, clear, consistent and readable for a general audience. The SOP's appendices provide additional information, reference resources and sample letters. The SOP applies to all media: ground water, soil, surface water, sediment and air. The SOP has been presented to other regions as a model and is under consideration for adoption nationally.

Advancing Science, Research and Technological Innovation

EPA Region 4 relies on scientific excellence – thorough research, accurate data and innovative approaches – as an integral part of the Superfund program. The program also benefits from specialized expertise in areas including hydrogeology, human health, and radiological and ecological risk assessment. Region 4 scientists integrate knowledge from a wide variety of sources and disciplines to provide responsive solutions to public health and environmental challenges.

Innovative Science

Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Response

Region 4 provided scientific input, reviews and comments throughout the federal response to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. Region 4 scientists led EPA's effort to develop screening levels for ecological and human health exposures. Staff were also heavily involved in the development of sampling plans for the Gulf Coast and in all laboratory and data analyses. Finally, Region 4 scientists led EPA's effort to understand oil dispersant impacts, participating in multi-agency workgroups dealing with dispersant toxicity issues and sampling methods.

Vapor Intrusion Evaluations

Vapor intrusion is a process by which chemicals volatilize from impacted soil or ground water beneath a building and diffuse toward regions of lower chemical concentration (e.g., the atmosphere, conduits, basements). Region 4 scientists are addressing this emerging high-priority issue, assisting with vapor intrusion evaluations for all types of contaminated sites across the Southeast. Region 4 staff also participated in a national meeting addressing vapor intrusion issues in 2010.

Monitored Natural Attenuation

Monitored Natural Attenuation (MNA) is an EPA-defined remedy alternative that relies on natural processes to achieve site-specific remedial objectives within an acceptable period of time. Region 4 hydrogeologists continue to provide significant input into the development of national guidance for evaluating the progress of natural attenuation in ground water using data collected during site characterization and long-term monitoring.

Asbestos Investigations and National Workgroup

Asbestos has once again emerged as a national public health issue. EPA's ongoing investigations in Libby, Montana have had national implications. The commercial mine in Libby produced vermiculite contaminated with a non-commercial form of asbestos. Ore from this mine was shipped across the country, creating so-called Libby "sister" sites. Region 4 has the largest number of Libby sister sites in the nation; the successful investigation of these sites is a priority. Region 4 scientists have assisted with the investigations of the Libby sister sites and other sites in Region 4 where naturally occurring asbestos may be present. Region 4 scientists also participate in EPA's Asbestos Technical Review Workgroup (TRW), which is working to identify and solve a variety of asbestos issues nationwide. Region 4 hosted the TRW's national meeting in 2010.



Did You Know?

Region 4 has rigorous quality assurance and sample control procedures to ensure that project plans, methodologies and data interpretation are as accurate, timely and comprehensive as possible.

Monthly calls, trainings and mailing lists also enable the sharing of new developments and ensure strong coordination and scientific excellence across Region 4 programs.

Partnering, Consultation and Collaboration

To fulfill its mission of protecting human health and the environment, EPA Region 4 actively collaborates with an extensive network of partners, including affected communities, states, tribes, local governments, public nonprofits, private sector organizations and other federal agencies. Region 4 relies on its government, nonprofit and private sector partners to help fulfill EPA's mission of responding to emergencies and cleaning up hazardous sites.

Through several types of partnering agreements, including contracts, nonprofit grants, state cooperative agreements and federal interagency agreements, Region 4 ensures that all required Superfund cleanup work will be performed. In 2010, Region 4 managed 12 major contracts with private firms, 46 federal interagency agreements, 43 Superfund state contracts, 23 state cooperative agreements, one county cooperative agreement and nine Technical Assistance Grants with community organizations.

2006
EPA achieves
1,000th
Construction
Completion at
the Macalloy
Corporation site
in South Carolina.



- Interagency agreements enabled three federal agencies to assist with oversight of the cleanup of the TVA Kingston Fossil Plant fly ash release in Tennessee. The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation assisted with geotechnical inspections, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers with sediment control oversight, and the U.S. Coast Guard with health and safety oversight.
- The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry worked under an interagency agreement during the Deepwater Horizon oil spill to provide essential oil and dispersant risk assessment advice.
- Region 4's cooperative agreement with Person County, North Carolina made possible the Recovery Act-funded extension of a drinking water line to residents near the GMH Electronics Superfund site.
- Pre-remedial cooperative agreements in all eight states in the Region helped move sites quickly through the cleanup process.

Region 4 is also a national leader and innovator in contract management. In addition to managing multi-site and site-specific contracts for site assessment and cleanup, Region 4 has increased its efforts to provide environmental consulting and remediation opportunities to Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Businesses (SDVOSBs) and small and disadvantaged businesses (SDBs). Through 2010, Region 4 has awarded more than 15 percent of all Recovery Act funding contracts to SDVOSBs and SDBs, significantly exceeding Agency goals.

Innovative Agreements in Mississippi Enable Cleanups to Move Forward

Region 4 completed negotiations in 2010 to finalize the first Superfund State Contracts ever between EPA and the State of Mississippi. The state has committed to cost-share on approximately \$50 million in cleanup costs at the Picayune Wood Treating and American Creosote Works sites. Region 4 also signed two interagency agreements with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for oversight of site cleanup activities, which are scheduled to start in summer 2011. Both sites are located in low income, disadvantaged neighborhoods; the cleanups will protect public health and restore the environment in these communities.

FY 2010 Awards

2009

The American Revitalization and Recovery Act provides \$27 million for Superfund cleanups in Florida, Georgia and North Carolina.

EPA Excellence, Integrity and Experience: EPA Region 4 Staff Awards

In 2010, EPA Region 4 staff received two national awards (the Suzanne E. Olive Award for Exemplary Leadership and the Paul G. Keough Award for Administrative Excellence), one silver medal and four bronze medals. Region 4 staff also received the Annual Diversity Awareness Award and the Donald J. Guinyard Pioneer Career Achievement Award for Outstanding Leadership and Mentoring. Finally, Region 4 staff received Notable Achievement Awards in Superfund Enforcement, Reuse/Revitalization, Program Support and Community Involvement.

Celebrating Community Dedication: Awards for Excellence in Site Reuse

In June 2010, Region 4 presented Excellence in Site Reuse Awards to Hillsborough and Broward Counties in southern Florida. Region 4 created the award to recognize those who have gone above and beyond in redeveloping Superfund sites; both counties were instrumental in returning two former landfills to productive use. Hillsborough and Broward Counties demonstrated that these sites could be reused in innovative ways to become assets for the surrounding communities.



Hillsborough County, Florida

Following the cleanup of the Taylor Road Landfill Superfund site, Hillsborough County has creatively reused the 42-acre area, establishing a recycling center, a community collection center, a household chemical/electronics collection center, a site maintenance facility and an environmental field office. The county also uses part of the landfill to grow hay used for erosion control. The county collaborated with the Academy of Model Aeronautics and the Tampa Radio-control Aircraft Club to build a model airplane park that includes a paved runway and covered working areas. The county has also

worked with DOE on a study to evaluate using methane from landfills as a renewable energy source. Hillsborough County also enhanced the selected remedy by voluntarily extending water lines to additional residents to provide a larger-than-required buffer area between private wells and site monitoring wells.



Broward County, Florida

Broward County has redeveloped the Davie Landfill Superfund site, once referred to by some as “Mount Trashmore,” into Vista View Park, a 160-acre recreation area featuring horse trails, picnic shelters, restrooms, a fishing pier, and lots of room for kite flying, bicycling, rollerblading and skateboarding. Broward County saw the recreational reuse potential of the site early on. At the same time that the county closed the landfill and cleaned up the site under EPA oversight, it also installed much of the infrastructure, including roads, stormwater drainage and landscaping, that would enable the site’s recreational reuse. Vista View Park opened in July 2003. The park’s popularity led the county to purchase adjacent land and expand the park; the park’s expansion opened in November 2009. Additional park facilities now include a trail with fitness stations, camping, and areas for radio-controlled plane flying and boating. One of park’s two playgrounds has been recognized for exceeding the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Celebrating Community Dedication: the Award for Citizen Excellence in Community Involvement



2010
Region 4 supports federal response to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. EPA monitors and samples the air, water and sediment along the Gulf Coast.

Fort Valley, Georgia

In September 2010, EPA presented the Woolfolk Alliance with the Agency's Citizen Excellence in Community Involvement Award. The national award is presented annually to an individual or a community group working with a Superfund team for outstanding achievements in the field of environmental protection. The award recognizes the community's dedicated 12-year effort to restore and reuse the Woolfolk Chemical Works Superfund site, a 31-acre former pesticide manufacturing and packaging facility located adjacent to the city's downtown district.

"The Woolfolk Alliance serves as a great example for communities across the nation on how to bring together many diverse interests to solve a common challenge," said Region 4 Administrator Gwen Keyes Fleming. "EPA is proud to present this award to Fort Valley Mayor John E. Stumbo and members of the Woolfolk Alliance, and commends them for their dedication to the cleanup and redevelopment of the Woolfolk Chemical Works site."

For more than a decade, the Woolfolk Alliance has facilitated effective information exchanges between the community and state and federal agencies, and identified productive ways to reuse the formerly contaminated site. The dedication of the members in the community-based organization is unparalleled; the majority of its founding members remain active, 12 years after the Woolfolk Alliance was formed.

To date, the site's cleanup has involved the treatment and removal of arsenic-contaminated soil in addition to the remediation of multiple residential yards and attics. Today, Thomas Public Library and the Troutman House, a welcome center and headquarters for several local community organizations, are located on a cleaned up portion of the site. Additional reuse plans are underway.

Region 4 Staff and SRS SuperJTI Receive National Recognition

Region 4 staff were recognized with EPA's Suzanne E. Olive Award for Exemplary Leadership in National Equal Employment Opportunity for their work as part of the SRS SuperJTI job readiness program in South Carolina.

The award recognizes employees for exemplary achievements and contributions to the Agency in fostering and promoting the tenets of equal employment opportunity and civil rights, and for demonstrated commitment to workforce diversity.

For more information about SRS SuperJTI, please see page 18 of the report.

The Year in Review: Additional FY 2010 Highlights

Sampling, Cleanup and Cost Recovery Agreements for Alabama Sites

In 2010, Region 4 negotiated settlement agreements with responsible parties at the Alabama Plating Company site in Vincent, Alabama. Responsible parties have agreed to provide all of their remaining assets, approximately \$720,000, to partially reimburse EPA for its response costs at the former metal plating and galvanizing facility. In Anniston, sampling and cleanup activities to address contamination from local industrial operations moved forward after Region 4 was able to gain access to hundreds of properties.

Green Remediation Meeting Multiple Clean and Green Policy Objectives in South Carolina

The cleanup of the Savannah River Site (SRS) in western South Carolina has incorporated multiple green remediation best management approaches, including solar-powered remediation and remote monitoring systems, passive and real-time sampling, and high-efficiency control valves. These technologies have resulted in reduced transportation and fuel usage requirements, lab waste streams, and carbon dioxide emissions. Emerging green remediation tools are also being researched at SRS, including ground water treatment using agricultural oils to accelerate cleanup and cap maintenance using bamboo as a fast-growing vegetative cover. In total, there are currently 17 green remediation-enhanced cleanup systems in place at SRS.



The Weyerhaeuser Mill site

Successful Consent Decree Agreements in North Carolina and Florida

In 2010, Region 4 completed negotiations with responsible parties at the Weyerhaeuser Mill site in Plymouth, North Carolina and the Nocatee Hull Creosote site in Hull, Florida. At the Weyerhaeuser Mill site, an active paper products manufacturing facility, the responsible party agreed to design and implement the remedy for impacted surface water, sediments and fish tissue in the Roanoke River. The party also agreed to pay \$3.2 million in past response costs, bringing the total amount recovered by EPA at the site to more than \$4.2 million. At the 136-acre former wood treating plant in Florida, the responsible party agreed to fund the site's estimated \$11.2 million cleanup, reimburse EPA for its past response costs and pay for future Agency oversight costs.

Did You Know?

In FY 2010, EPA Region 4's Superfund program:

- Led the Regional Incident Coordination Team (RICT), which achieved a seamless intra-agency response in addressing several major priorities, including the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, extensive flooding in Tennessee and the national Liberty RadEx training exercise.
- Undertook 121 emergency responses, including 75 responses to hazardous substance releases and 46 responses to oil spills.
- Provided 92 outreach seminars and conducted 14 training exercises with EPA's emergency response partners.
- Conducted inspections or drills at 42 large oil storage facilities and 62 smaller oil facilities.
- Worked with EPA's partners to conduct removals at 100 abandoned, leaking oil wells, the highest total in Region 4 history.

Looking Ahead: FY 2011



As the Superfund program enters its fourth decade, Region 4 renews its core commitment to healthy, sustainable communities and environmental protection. By restoring land through effective, transparent actions, collaborating with diverse constituencies and partners, and relying on scientific excellence, vigorous enforcement and our staff's expertise and experience, EPA Region 4's Superfund program will be working hard to protect human health and the environment in 2011.

FY 2011 Priorities

Core Mission

- ***Maintaining responsiveness capabilities.*** EPA Region 4 will continue to support trainings and exercises, maintaining our capabilities to effectively respond to emergencies and natural disasters and ensuring that the Region's Response Support Corps and Incident Management Teams remain fully functional.
- ***Enhancing enforcement.*** EPA Region 4 will continue to vigorously pursue enforcement and cost recovery activities, ensuring that those responsible for hazardous waste sites either clean up the sites or reimburse EPA for their cleanup.
- ***Accelerating cleanups through efficiencies and transparency.*** As part of EPA's Integrated Cleanup Initiative, EPA Region 4 will pursue opportunities to accelerate cleanups, engage stakeholders, address as many sites as possible and help return sites to productive use.
- ***Ensuring scientific excellence in environmental protection.*** EPA Region 4 will continue to conduct the most thorough research, rely on the most accurate data and pursue the most innovative approaches to ensure that Region 4 remains a national leader in environmental protection.

Building Partnerships

- ***Advancing community engagement.*** EPA Region 4 will work closely with its partners as part of the Community Engagement Initiative (CEI) to ensure transparent and accessible decision-making processes, to deliver information that communities can use to participate meaningfully, to strengthen our responsiveness to community perspectives, and to ensure timely cleanup decisions. Region 4 will also continue to implement its CEI Action Plan and collaborate with EPA's regional Environmental Justice Council and the Office of Environmental Justice on strategies and priorities.
- ***Strengthening our network of partners.*** By continuing to foster strong relationships with our partners, EPA Region 4 will accelerate and deliver comprehensive cleanups to protect human health and the environment.

Sustainability

- ***Implementing green remediation approaches.*** Sustainability is a key concept in the environmental protection community. EPA Region 4 will expand its efforts to pursue green remediation approaches, fully implementing the Agency's *Green Remediation Strategy* and the Region's Clean and Green Policy to maximize the net environmental benefits of Superfund cleanups.
- ***Supporting land revitalization.*** EPA Region 4 will continue to lead the way in supporting land reuse and revitalization, focusing efforts on early planning to ensure that these considerations are built into site remedies. EPA remains committed to restoring the nation's contaminated lands and enabling America's communities to safely return these properties to beneficial uses.



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